

## Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 SWF-02 IGA-02 EB-11

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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DRC-01 /171 W

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R 161734Z APR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3579

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 1324

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID EGEN PINT MR US

SUBJ: ASST SECY EASUM'S CALL ON MAURITANIAN FONMIN

OULD MOUKNASS

SUMMARY. IN MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S AND SECY KISSINGER'S ADDRESSES TO UNGA SPECIAL SESSION APR 15, ASST SECY EASUM AND FONMIN MOUKNASS DISCUSSED, INTER ALIA, BOTH SPEECHES, US DROUGHT AID TO MAURITANIA, POSSIBLE US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA, AND ROLE OF CILSS IN SAHELIAN DROUGHT ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. SECY KISSINGER'S SPEECH. MOUKNASS COMMENDED SECY'S SPEECH WITH WHAT SEEMED TO BE GENUINE ENTHUSIASM AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT IT CONTAINED "CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND NOT JUST THEORIES."

2. RESTRUCTURING OF AID. IN RESPONDING TO EASUM'S INQUIRY ABOUT MEANING OF OULD DADDAH'S APPEAL FOR "RESTRUCTURING" OF AID, MOUKNASS SAID: (A) AID SHOULD BE UNTIED; AND (B) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

IN FORMULATION OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES, DETERMINATION OF PRIORITIES SHOULD BE LEFT TO RECIPIENTS, NOT TO DONORS.

3. US DROUGHT ASSISTANCE. AFTER VOICING APPRECIATION FOR US EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SAHELIAN DROUGHT, MOUKNASS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE INCREASED SUPPORT FOR LONGER-TERM PROGRAMS NEEDED TO BUILD ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR INHABITANTS OF SAHEL.

4. FM MOUKNASS MADE TWO SPECIFIC APPEALS FOR US ASSISTANCE:

A) US ROLE IN ARAB ASSISTANCE. MOUKNASS SAID THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST MAURITANIA FINANCIALLY BUT THAT HELP IS REQUIRED IN TRANSLATING THIS DISPOSITION INTO ACTUAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT US, WHICH HE SAID HAD STUDIED COUNTRY'S NEEDS IN DETAIL, MIGHT ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY. THIS COULD INVOLVE PROVIDING TECHNICIANS (INCLUDING PRIVATE CONSULTING ENGINEERS) AND TECHNICAL ADVICE, OUTLINING FEASIBLE PROJECTS, ETC.

B) INVESTMENT PROMOTION. MOUKNASS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ASST SECY EASUM WOULD CONTINUE AND INCREASE VERY HELPFUL EFFORTS OF HIS PREDECESSOR TO EDUCATE AMERICAN BUSINESS ABOUT MAURITANIA'S INVESTMENT POTENTIAL.

5. CILSS ROLE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM ASST SECY EASUM, MOUKNASS SAID THAT, WHILE CILSS SHOULD HAVE ROLE IN REGIONAL DROUGHT-RELIEF MEASURES, IT SHOULD NOT INTERPOSE ITSELF BETWEEN DONORS AND RECIPIENTS IN BILATERAL PROJECTS. ILLUSTRATING WHAT HW ENVISAGED AS APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR CILSS, MOUKNASS DESCRIBED HOW THE ORGANIZATION HAD CONVENED MEETING AT WHICH COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAD DECIDED HOW TO APPORTION 3 MILLION DOLLARS IN DROUGHT ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY ABU DHABI. MOUKNASS INDICATED ADDITIONAL CONCERN THAT AGGRESSIVE CILSS ROLE MIGHT INHIBIT MAURITANIAN ATTEMPTS OBTAIN DROUGHT AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY FROM ARAB COUNTRIES. MOUKNASS REMARKED THAT SITUATION MIGHT BE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY POSSIBLE ADHESION NEW CILSS MEMBERS SUCH AS ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND TANZANIA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASST SECY EASUM'S CALL ON MAURITANIAN FONMIN OULD MOUKNASS  
**TAGS:** EAID, EGEN, PINT, MR, US, UN, (HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS), (EASUM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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